

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-41. (Cancelled).

42. (Newly Added) An ablation probe, comprising:

an elongated member having a proximal end and a distal end;

a plurality of elongated electrode tines extending through the elongated member; and

a plurality of actuating mechanisms associated with the proximal end of the elongated member, the actuating mechanisms being operable to independently move the respective electrode tines to extend beyond, or retract within, the distal end of the elongated member.

43. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the electrode tines are electrically insulated from each other.

44. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 43, further comprising a plurality of electrical insulators extending through the elongated member, each of the insulators having a lumen, wherein the electrode tines extend through the respective insulator lumens.

45. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 44, wherein the elongated member has an exterior wall, the elongated member has apertures extending along the exterior wall into each of the electrical insulators, and the actuating mechanisms comprise a plurality of side members mechanically connected to the respective tines through the respective apertures.

46. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein each electrode tine has a distal end that conforms to an outwardly everted configuration when extended beyond the distal end of the elongated member and conforms to a radially constrained configuration when retracted within the distal end of the elongated member.

47. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the electrode tines are tissue penetrating electrode tines.

48. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the elongated member is rigid.

49. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the elongated member comprises a cannula.

50. (Newly Added) An ablation system, comprising:

an ablation probe comprising an elongated member having a proximal end and a distal end, a plurality of elongated electrode tines extending through the elongated member, and a plurality of actuating mechanisms associated with the proximal end of the elongated member, the actuating mechanisms being operable to independently move the respective electrode tines to extend beyond, or retract within, the distal end of the elongated member; and

an energy source coupled to the electrode tines.

52. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the electrode tines are electrically insulated from each other.

52. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 52, wherein the ablation probe further comprises a plurality of electrical insulators extending through the elongated member, each of the insulators having a lumen, wherein the electrode tines extend through the respective insulator lumens.

53. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 53, wherein the elongated member has an exterior wall, the elongated member has apertures extending along the exterior wall into each of the electrical insulators, and the actuating mechanisms comprise a plurality of side members mechanically connected to the respective tines through the respective apertures.

54. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein each electrode tine has a distal end that conforms to an outwardly everted configuration when extended beyond the distal end of the

elongated member and conforms to a radially constrained configuration when retracted within the distal end of the elongated member.

55. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the electrode tines are tissue penetrating electrode tines.

56. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the elongated member is rigid.

57. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the elongated member comprises a cannula.

58. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the energy source is a source of radio frequency energy.

59. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the energy source is configured to supply energy to each electrode tine in cyclic intervals.

60. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 59, wherein the cyclic intervals are uniform.

61. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 59, wherein the cyclic intervals are non-uniform.

62. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 59, wherein the energy source comprises an energy generator and a distributor configured to cycle energy from the energy generator to the electrode tines.

63. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 62, wherein the distributor comprises an active rotating electrode.

64. (Newly Added) An ablation probe, comprising:

an elongated member having a proximal end and a distal end;

a plurality of elongated electrode tines extending through the elongated member; and

a plurality of actuating mechanisms associated with the proximal end of the elongated member, the actuating mechanisms being operable to independently move at least two electrode tines relative to each other to extend beyond, or retract within, the distal end of the elongated member.

65. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the electrode tines are electrically insulated from each other.

66. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 65, further comprising a plurality of electrical insulators extending through the elongated member, each of the insulators having a lumen, wherein the electrode tines extend through the respective insulator lumens.

67. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 66, wherein the elongated member has an exterior wall, the elongated member has apertures extending along the exterior wall into each of the electrical insulators, and the actuating mechanisms comprise a plurality of side members mechanically connected to the respective tines through the respective apertures.

68. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein each electrode tine has a distal end that conforms to an outwardly everted configuration when extended beyond the distal end of the elongated member and conforms to a radially constrained configuration when retracted within the distal end of the elongated member.

69. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the electrode tines are tissue penetrating electrode tines.

70. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the elongated member is rigid.

71. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the elongated member comprises a cannula.